



News Release

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National Complete Streets Coalition Selects Durham to Join Safe Streets, Smart Cities Academy

DURHAM, N.C. –Durham’s work to make streets safer, and the region more livable and equitable, has now won the Bull City a [competitive national award](#).

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, announced this week that the Durham, N.C., Huntsville, Ala., and Pittsburgh, Pa. have been selected to participate in the Safe Streets, Smart Cities Academy. Through the Academy, a team of 10 staff from the [City of Durham Transportation Department](#) will hone their skills in using safety counter measures, creative place making, community engagement, and emerging technologies to create safer streets. Each city, including Durham, will also launch a temporary, on-the-ground demonstration project to transform one dangerous street or intersection into a safer place for people.

“Participation in the Safe Streets, Smart Cities Academy supports our [Vision Zero program](#), which is our program to eliminate traffic fatalities, and contributes to our goal of creating a safer community for all of our residents,” said Mayor Steve Schewel. “Our well-trained staff has demonstrated a commitment to safer streets as well as a pledge to implement a demonstration project that results from the technical assistance offered by this Academy.”

The team from Durham will join the other two cities for three, in-person workshops over the course of the next 10 months with one workshop hosted in each city. They will also participate in six distance-learning webinars and work closely with the National Complete Streets Coalition and with the local community to develop their safety demonstration projects.

“We believe that a key factor in driving safety is the nature of public involvement, and we are excited that this grant provides us with the opportunity to develop a model to create meaningful public involvement through which affected residents can influence and shape decisions,” said Director Terry Bellamy with the City’s Transportation Department.

Last year, the National Complete Streets Coalition worked with three other cities on a similar program: the Safe Streets Academy. Through that Academy, teams from Orlando, Fla., South Bend, Ind., and the Lexington, Ky. region implemented their own safety demonstration projects. Each of those projects were developed with input from the community and resulted in more pedestrian and bike-friendly street designs that slowed car traffic.

This year’s Academy builds off of lessons learned from last year and also introduces a new Smart Cities component to help cities understand how these emerging technologies create new challenges and opportunities when it comes to creating safer streets.

“Every death on our roadways is one death too many,” said Director Emiko Atherton of the National Complete Streets Coalition. “This program helps cities around the country explore new ways to make their streets safer for people of all ages and abilities and work toward the goal of eliminating deaths on our roads.”

This technical assistance is funded through a Safe System Innovation Grant from Road to Zero, a coalition of more than 800 organizations committed to reducing traffic fatalities in the United States to zero over the next three

decades. The coalition holds quarterly meetings to discuss innovative research and strategies and offers tools, resources, and grants to support safer streets nationwide.

For more information, contact Transportation Specialist Anne Phillips with the City's Transportation Department at (919) 560-4366, ext. 36210 or Anne.Phillips@DurhamNC.gov.

About the City of Durham Transportation Department

The [Transportation Department](#) is responsible for a broad range of transportation services, which include traffic signs and signals, transportation planning, [parking operations](#), street lighting, taxicab administration, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. The department also oversees [GoDurham](#) and [GoDurham ACCESS](#) as well as leads planning functions for the [Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) (DCHC MPO), which is the regional organization that is responsible for planning and programming state and federal transportation projects in the urbanized areas of Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps to strengthen the foundation, enhance the value, and improve the quality and sustainability of neighborhoods that are necessary for a strong and diverse community. For more information, follow the department on [Twitter](#).

About Smart Growth America

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for, and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

About National Complete Streets Coalition

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, is a non-profit, non-partisan alliance of public interest organizations and transportation professionals committed to the development and implementation of Complete Streets policies and practices. A nationwide movement launched by the Coalition in 2004, Complete Streets is the integration of people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of transportation networks. To date, agencies nationwide have adopted over 1,400 Complete Streets policies. For more information, visit <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition>.

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